

The Observer

THINGS INTERESTING TO THE DEAF

VOL. V.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1913

NO. 123

Giving the Deaf Outrageous Classification

A marked copy of the St. Louis Republic was sent to the Observer, and attention called to the article which follows below, also to one in the same vein by Peter T. Hughes, of Fulton, Missouri. Unfortunately the article by Dr. Geo. B. Mangold, director of the school of social economy of Washington University, is not available at this moment, otherwise extracts from it might be published. Rev. Cloud's reply, as well as that by Mr. Hughes, deserves the widest circulation in refutation of the erroneous statements by Dr. Mangold.

According to the Republic of last Tuesday the director of the school of social economy of Washington University is reported as having stated, in a recent lecture, that the feeble-minded were classified scientifically to include deaf mutes, idiots, imbeciles and the backward.

If the director of the school of social economy is correctly reported he is woefully backward in his knowledge of deaf mutes. To classify them with the feeble-minded is as erroneous and unscientific as it would be to classify football players with chrysanthemums. Mentality is much more independent of the sense of hearing and the power of speech than is commonly supposed.

On the first page of the same issue of the Republic kindly humorous reference is made to the football team of Gallaudet College for the Deaf at Washington. The ball teams of this institution annually meet those of Johns Hopkins University, United States Naval Academy, University of Virginia, Georgetown University and other colleges. Often as not the deaf team is victorious. Were the Gallaudetes as "feeble-minded" as one would be likely to infer after reading the reported remarks of the learned director of the school of social economy, it is hardly possible that they would have repeated opportunities for trying their skill against clubs composed of picked members of the "eugenically fit."

Gallaudet College will celebrate its semicentennial next summer. There will be a great reunion of graduates and former students of that institution. They will afford an edifying living exhibit for any social economist who lacks first-hand information concerning the deaf. Among those who have studied at Gallaudet will be found successful architects, artists,

sculptors, chemists, botanists, editors, teachers, poets, clergymen, government clerks, farmers, dairymen, mechanics and men in various other honorable occupations.

Deaf men have not only graduated from this college established for their special benefit, but from colleges for the hearing as well. Washington University, Columbia University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Toronto, University of California, schools of divinity and other colleges have conferred degrees on deaf students, or to use the phraseology of the social economist, on deaf-mutes. Miss Helen Keller is a conspicuous illustration of what deaf-mutes can do and have done when given the proper environment and educational advantages.

The reckless, unwarranted and unscientific classifying of deaf-mutes with the feeble-minded, the criminal, the delinquent, the insane and the dependent by people in a position to catch the public ear, is an outrageous injustice to a deserving and worthy class of the community. Deafness is a handicap to advancement, but all that the deaf ask is at least an equal chance for earning their living in occupations in which hearing is not absolutely necessary. There are many such occupations, but where the public gets the impression that a deaf person is also a mute and feeble-minded, he becomes the victim of unjust and cruel discrimination.

There are deaf mutes who are also feeble-minded, as there are hearing people who are feeble-minded, but the proportion of the former is smaller than that of the latter. The same is also true of the criminal, of the delinquent, of the insane and of the dependent.

In their pursuit of happiness, which is the inalienable right of everyone, the deaf seem to prefer to marry among themselves. The proportion of divorces among the deaf is much smaller than among society at large. The children of deaf parents almost without exception are able to hear, are otherwise physically normal and turn out better than the average child of hearing parents in the same walks of life.

One ever-present and fruitful source of misconception and prejudice against the deaf on the part of those who do not know them well is caused by imposters, who go about pretend-

ing to be deaf and asking for alms.

At the last session of the Missouri Legislature an effort was made to pass a more effective law dealing with such kinds of imposition. It had strong backing and met with no opposition, but was one of the many measures which failed of final passage owing to lack of time. It will be reintroduced at the next session of the general assembly. JAMES H. CLOUD.

Gallaudet School, St. Louis.

WASHINGTONIANS AS HOSTS.

Tacoma News: Ten deaf pupils from the state of Washington, at Gallaudet college for the deaf at Washington, D. C., yesterday entertained at dinner for the 90 other pupils of the college, the arrangements having been made by Representative Albert Johnson, who visited the institute a short time ago. In addition to turkey the dinner included some fine steelhead salmon sent by W. W. Kurtz, the Hoquiam, Washington, salmon packer. The Washingtonians at the college are: J. E. Skoglund, Edgewood; A. B. Clasen, Tacoma; K. S. Willman, Spokane; Ethel M. Gregory, Walla Walla; W. B. Mellis, Wapato; Bessie Maguire, Port Angeles; Mary E. Loveall, Ferndale; N. Carl Garrison, Seattle; F. H. Thompson, Granger; Elsie Peterson, Seattle.

Poultry raising is coming more and more into favor as one line of work in which the boys at schools for the deaf are thoroughly grounded. A poultry farm rightly conducted is a source of profit these days, and if a boy is to learn a trade at his school, poultry raising offers a fine chance. Not only should the boys be taught, but also the girls who have a disposition to take up the work. In some schools there are trades that might well be discarded for poultry raising.

The Washington school for the deaf and the school for the blind were until a little more than two years ago under the superintendency of one man, but in 1911 the board of control decreed that they have separate management in every respect. Supt. Thos. P. Clarke was left in charge of the school for the deaf and Principal Mullin, of the school for the blind, became the actual head of the latter institution. The members of the "little paper family" have just "discovered" that the two schools were separated, and the above remarks are made to set them wise.

THE OBSERVER

P. L. AXLING - - - Editor

The Observer is issued every two weeks on Thursday. It is published in the interest of the deaf everywhere.

TERMS:

One Copy, one year.....\$1.00
One Copy, six months......50
One Copy, three months......25
Canada, one year.....1.50

Advertising rates given upon Application

All contributions must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The Editor is not responsible for views and opinions expressed by correspondents in their communications.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

Contributions, subscriptions and business letters should be addressed to

L. O. CHRISTENSON, Publisher.
222 Liberty Bldg. 1404 Third Ave.
Seattle, Wash.

Entered as Second-Class matter, Nov. 25, 1909, at the Postoffice at Seattle, Washington, under the Act of March 3, 1879.



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MORE PUBLICITY NEEDED.

In another part of this issue will be found a discussion by Rev. J. H. Cloud, of St. Louis, on the erroneous classification given deaf-mutes by a learned professor of Washington University. A careful reading of the article will show the line of talk made by Dr. Mangold, the professor in question. The surprising thing about the matter is the utter lack of knowledge of the deaf shown by this man who, by virtue of the position he occupies, should, above all others, at least have taken pains to first ascertain the truth or falsity of his statements. He shows such dense ignorance of the deaf as to make him dangerous as an educator of American youth. You might stop any ordinary man on the street and ask him a few questions calculated to bring out his knowledge of the deaf and their intelligence and capabilities, and in nine cases out of ten you would find they knew more of the true status of the deaf than Dr. Mangold has shown he knows. The Dago ditch digger might be excused if he shows he knows nothing accurate about the deaf, but what shall we think of a learned gentleman like Dr. Mangold when he gives expression to the views he has and intends that they should be accepted as the truth?

The publication of such misleading information as that given out by Dr. Mangold only serves to accentuate the fact there is a crying need for the widest publicity of the right kind concerning the deaf—truthful, convincing statements which will give the general public the right ideas. Among the many things the National association of the deaf might do here is one that might be placed in the

hands of a committee and brought to the attention of the public with persistent regularity. President Howard can no doubt find some one who is willing to take up the work and keep the big dailies of the country informed concerning the deaf in general, knocking the props from under the many fallacies that such men as Dr. Mangold have been instilling into the reading public.

N. A. D. BRANCHES.

There is a good deal of noise these days about forming "branches" of the National association of the deaf. Such branches, when properly managed, cannot fail to be a good thing, and it is to be hoped there will be dozens of them formed before the next convention of the National association is pulled off. The fact of their existence will make it imperative that the constitution be so amended as to recognize them as part of the parent organization and to indicate the several duties those branches are expected to carry out. The committee on constitution and by-laws should take cognizance of this and provide for it. If the committee desires a model for the formation of sections governing the branches, its members are respectfully urged to secure a copy of the Spear Plan prepared for presentation at the Colorado Springs convention in 1910, but not permitted by its opponents to show its head.

There are some amusing features about this cry for branches of the National organization. Some of those who are today the loudest in favor of branches were the most bitter opponents of the Spear Plan. They would have the rank and file believe their suggestions as to the organization and laws for such branches are original with them. For instance, one aim to be attained through these branches is the organization of the deaf of a community under the banner of the National association, to become part and parcel of the latter. This is good and proper and no one should object. But why take up the matter at this late day? Could it not have been working during the past three years, and would it not have given much strength and prestige to the National association had it been adopted at the Colorado Springs convention? The Spear Plan contemplated exactly the things that are now being demanded. The advisory committee was one of them, to be organized as follows, quoting from the Spear Plan, article VIII:

Sec. 1. The president shall appoint an advisory committee, consisting of as many members as may be determined upon by the executive committee. The executive committee shall proceed on the basis of giving one such member to each dis-

trict or community where there are a sufficient number of deaf people to entitle it to representation on the advisory committee. In all cases the president, in making appointments, shall consult the wishes of the representative deaf in each community and accord with the same as far as possible. Such appointments to the advisory committee shall be for a term of two years, and shall be made out on forms provided for the purpose, and bear the signature of the president and secretary, and the corporate seal of the association shall be affixed thereto.

Sec. 2. Every member of the advisory committee, when his appointment is issued, shall pledge himself to faithfully endeavor to promote the interests of the association, and increase the membership. He shall send correspondence to the association paper. He shall correspond with the secretary, keeping the home office informed of important matters within his territory. He shall receive applications for membership and forward same to the secretary.

Sec. 3. The members of the advisory committee shall * * endeavor to organize the deaf in their respective districts into local associations whenever practicable; provided, however, that such organization shall in no wise affect such local members' individual membership or privileges under the National association.

THANKS, VERY MUCH.

Missouri Record: The clink of gold in the golden west has acted as an elixir for the Washington Observer. P. L. Axling's name appears over the editorial column in the place of that of W. S. Root, and with our welcome to him as a member of the fraternity we wish The Observer a continuance of her present prosperity.

STILL ON DECK.

Minnesota Companion. We are sorry to learn that The Observer, an independent paper for the deaf that has been published at Seattle for a number of years past, will soon suspend publication. The reason is purely financial. It has not received sufficient support to enable it to live. It has been a good paper, ably edited, and full of interesting matter relating to the deaf. It does seem as if a purely independent paper for the deaf is doomed to failure. Our country is so large, and the school papers cover so much of the field that it seems impossible for an independent paper to get a living subscription list.

The New Jersey school for the deaf is doing things right in the trades section. The printing office has two linotype machines and those pupils who master the trade are sure of steady employment at good wages.

SEATTLE LOCALS.

Mrs. Edith Wade, who has been visiting in Tacoma for some time, is back in Seattle and expects soon to take up regular work.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Klawitter, who are building a new home at Columbia City, are planning on giving a housewarming soon after they move in.

Lawrence Belser, of Wenatchee, is in Seattle, and if he is able to find work in some photograph gallery he will make his permanent residence here.

Mrs. O. Hanson has sent out invitations to a reception she will give at her home the evening of December 6, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. True Partridge.

Lloyd Rhiley has not landed any thing permanent in the line of work in Seattle, and has been contemplating a move to some place that promised better success.

Michel Brown, who spent some months in Seattle last summer, has finally taken his long-contemplated trip to Australia, sailing from San Francisco to Melbourne on November 12 last.

The Seattle deaf are well represented on National association committees. Olof Hanson, chairman. A. W. Wright and W. S. Root compose the publicity committee, and P. L. Axling is on the executive committee.

Miss Alice Hammond came over from Tacoma to attend the Morris-Partridge wedding Saturday evening and incidentally to gain a few pointers on how brides should act. She was the guest of Mrs. O. Hanson Saturday and Sunday.

Miss Mabel Scanlan, who spent about a month this fall with Mrs. Olof Hanson, but was compelled to return home on account of poor health, has been reported as being but little, if any, improved. Miss Scanlan's home is in Everett, Wash.

L. O. Christenson was summoned as a venire man for the petit jury of the King county superior court, and had to explain that he could not hear to be excused. The summons he received looked like a formidable document, but deafness was a more potent factor.

Mr. and Mrs. Swangren have moved from 1508 East Sixty-fifth street to a small cottage at 1212 East Sixty-seventh. Their next move may be into a house of their own, for the house owning bee has been buzzing in their ears nearly a year now.

A. E. Hole took a run over to Tacoma Sunday a week ago, and spent some hours with J. C. Bertram and family. The latter accompanied him on his return to Seattle and called at the Axling and Hanson homes, taking the nine o'clock boat back to his dear old Tacoma.

Alex Steidel, a brother of Mrs. P. L. Axling, and known to most of the deaf in Seattle, accidentally cut himself

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just over the right knee two weeks ago, while cutting up meat in the market of which he has charge. It took five stitches to close the gash and the young man was laid up four or five days.

The next meeting of Seattle Division No. 44, N. F. S. D., occurs Saturday evening, December 6, at the home of L. O. Christenson, Twenty-seventh avenue and Cherry street. Originally the hour set was 8:15, but this has been changed and announcement made that the meeting will be called to order at 7:30.

J. B. Bixler went from Wenatchee to Waterville on his motorcycle before going to Spokane. He visited with the Gormleys at Alstown for a couple of days and left forty Rome Beauty apple trees. Mr. Bixler has done a good deal of experimenting with raising fruit trees in the nursery and has attained considerable success.

True Partridge the other evening was walking home at a late hour and pondering over his coming wedding, when a couple of police officials stopped him and ascertained that he carried no shooting irons or other deadly weapon. They also made him divulge part of his personal history and were satisfied that he was not one of the night marauders making trouble in Seattle.

W. H. Gormley, of Alstown, Douglas county, Wash., writes that he proved up on his homestead last spring and is waiting for the unwinding of government red tape that will bring him his patent. Mr. and Mrs. Gormley, the latter formerly Bertha Stivers, will visit the parents of the wife in Pullman during the winter. Crops on the Gormley ranch were fine this year and he sold his No. 1 Bluestem wheat at 77 cents per bushel.

An item in the Minnesota Companion says: "Miss Grace Jewell, who was a teacher in this school for three or four years, and later in other schools, was married during the summer. Her former associates here wish her happiness." The lady in question taught at the Vancouver, Washington, school for a time, and was married last June to a Mr. Scheule, who is a successful and well-to-do business man in that city. Her position at the school was taken by her sister Eleanor.

Adolph N. Struck, formerly a resident of Seattle and first editor of the Observer, is now one of the corps of teachers at the school for the deaf at Knoxville, Tennessee. Mr. Struck

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graduated from Gallaudet College with the degree of B. A., and evidently has stepped into a good position. In this connection it might be pertinent to state that the position of head teacher in the manual department at the Knoxville school was offered to P. L. Axling last summer, but was declined.

Thanksgiving evening found Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Wright entertaining informally at their home on East Sixty-second street. There were some twenty convivial spirits present and four tables were set for a game of five hundred, followed by a bountiful supply of refreshments, provided by the hostess. These consisted of sandwiches, three kinds of cake, coffee, two kinds of fruit, and three kinds of home-made candy. Notwithstanding the quantities of turkey, cranberry sauce and mince pie disposed of late that day, every one did full justice to the repast spread by Mrs. Wright.

The November social of the Puget Sound association took place at Carpenter's Hall Saturday evening, November 22, and was in charge of A. W. Wright. A canvas of those present

indicated they were more inclined toward games or other amusements than listening for an hour to dissertations on commission governments and their kind. So Mr. Wright and assistants produced the green tables and decks of cards and a pleasant evening was spent at progressive whist. Miss Myrtle Hammond carried off first honors on the ladies' side and Lloyd Rhiley on the gentlemen's side, while O. Hanson and J. E. Gustin tied for the booby honors.

Miss Vina Smith, who will be pleasantly remembered by the many who met her in Seattle during the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition, is now teaching in the South Dakota school at Sioux Falls. During the last two years Miss Smith taught at Fulton, Missouri, under Supt. S. Tefft Walker, but when politics invaded the school and ousted this good man, Miss Smith also was given her passport. It was but a short time after that she secured the South Dakota situation, which she seems to like better than that at Fulton.

The California News says: "Alice Clawges is back in the middle west once more. She was seven years in the Nebraska school and seven weeks in the Washington school. She was on a trip to Florida this summer. Last month she entered this school, but she remained only four weeks. She has just returned to Nebraska with her folks. She was one of the brightest and most ladylike girls that has ever been here, and she won the esteem of all associated with her in this school."

GALLAUDET DAY.

Wednesday, December 10, is the birthday anniversary of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, founder of deaf-mute education in the United States. Some kind of observance of the day is usual among the deaf of the country. A committee of the National Association is taking advantage of the day to collect contributions among the pupils of the schools for the deaf, the money thus collected to go into the endowment fund of the national association. A. J. Eickhoff, of Flint, Michigan, is one of the committee, and contributions may be sent him. Of course, if any one outside of the school desires to contribute there can be no objection.

DEAF-MUTES DIVORCED.

A Tacoma daily contained the following item in a recent issue: A unique case was heard in Superior Judge William O. Chapman's court Tuesday morning when Mrs. Lennie Petrodi, deaf and dumb, pleaded for freedom from her husband, whom she charges with deserting her. Judge Chapman granted Mrs. Petrodi the divorce. This is the first time deaf and dumb persons have ever applied for divorces in the Pierce county courts.

MORRIS-PARTRIDGE NUPTIALS.

Miss Cleon E. Morris last Saturday evening became the wife of True Partridge and they are now ensconced in their new home at Fauntleroy Park. The wedding was a pretty affair at the home of the bride's mother and sisters at Bryn Mawr, the ceremony taking place at nine o'clock under the guidance of Rev. D. Earl. About 35 were present in response to invitations, most of them being relatives of the contracting parties and hearing friends.

The deaf contingent proceed in a body from the city, arriving at the house about an hour before the ceremony. The house was tastefully decorated for the occasion, with a bower of ferns and white flowers in one corner. Miss Florence Morris, sister of the bride, acted as bridesmaid and P. L. Axling was best man.

At the appointed hour the bridal party proceeded from one room to the bower and faced the minister, the bride very prettily attired in white, with a flowing veil thrown over her head. In her hand she carried a large bouquet of orange blossoms. The ring ceremony was used, and the questions put to the bride by the minister were interpreted by Marion Hanson.

As soon as the couple were pronounced man and wife they turned and received the congratulations of the assembled guests. Light refreshments were soon served and the party took the 11:30 car back to the city, leaving a trail of rice from house to station.

A large number of fine presents were received and displayed on a table. The force in the office where Mr. Partridge is employed came over in a body and brought a heavy electric table lamp and a chafing dish. Silverware formed a large part of the array of presents displayed.

Howard L. Terry, the well-known deaf writer from Santa Monica, Cal., will be in Seattle next Thursday. He is on his way East and has but one day to stay in this city.

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Bible Class for the deaf meets
on the third Sunday of each month at 3
p. m. in Trinity Parish Church, corner
Eighth Ave. & James St. All welcome
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NOTES AND COMMENT.

The Oklahoma school was erecting three new buildings, but before the work was finished the authorities found them unsafe and condemned them. They were ordered torn down and a new school building and a boys' and girls' dormitory will soon be started. The amount of the contract was \$149,470.

A. L. Roberts, the bright editor of the Kansas Star last year, has been replaced by Mrs. Kate S. Hermann, superintendent of the school, as editor. Mrs. Hermann became superintendent upon the removal of Mr. White, who was too good an advocate of the combined method to suit the governor. Roberts likewise was a combined method advocate. Thus we see the oralists are careful to decapitate all who may be in the way of their propaganda.

The American instructors of the deaf have taken steps to have an exhibit at the Panama-Pacific fair in San Francisco in 1915. The exhibit will be in charge of Alvin E. Pope, chief of the bureau of social economy, and he proposes to have a living exhibit through nine months.